

REMARKS

Initially, Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for acknowledging the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 20, 2001 and for acknowledging the claim of the right of priority granted under 35 U.S.C. §119. However, Applicant notes that the Examiner did not place initials adjacent to any of the U.S. Patent documents on the Form PTO-1449 submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed September 20, 2001. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner initial the Form PTO-1449 and return a copy of the same to the Applicant with the next Official Action.

In the above-noted Official Action, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over OKADA et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,264,966). Additionally, the Title was objected-to as not descriptive.

Initially, Applicant traverses the objection to the Title as not descriptive. In particular, the present invention is Titled "LENS MOVING DEVICE". In this regard, independent claim 1 positively recites "a lens support... a drive source that moves said lens... a cam member that is rotated by said drive source... and a cam follower that comes in contact with said cam member to transmit the rotational movement of said cam member". Each of the positively recited features of claim 1 relates, in some manner, to a lens or to driving a lens. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the title of the

present invention is fully descriptive of the invention to which the claims are directed. Of course, if the Examiner maintains the objection to the Title, Applicant respectfully invites the Examiner to suggest a new Title which he considers to be more descriptive.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-6 over OKADA. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to clarify the features of the present invention and to delete "means plus function" language from claim 6. The amendments to claims 1 and 6 also incorporate substantially all of the features previously recited in claim 3. Accordingly, claim 3 has been canceled by the present amendment. Additionally, claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that the herein-contained amendments are not necessary to overcome the art applied by the Examiner. Rather, as will be explained herein, features recited in the original claims 1 and 6 are not disclosed or suggested by OKADA. Accordingly, the herein-contained amendments are being made to clarify the features of the claimed invention.

The outstanding Official Action asserts that "[t]he limitations in claims 1-6 are shown in Okada et al' Figs. 3,4, columns 5-7. Okada et al discloses a... cam member (9) provided with stoppers... wherein the cam member is provided with a non-operative area and the lens support mechanism and the cam member (9) are molded. (See column 11, lines 35-45)". Additionally, the outstanding Official Action asserts that "[r]egarding claim 3, Okada et al shown in Fig. 3, the cam surface (9b) including an operative area

having first position which is inclined to a plane perpendicular to the optical axis of the lens".

In this regard, amended claim 1 of the present application recites "a cam member... with a stopper and a ring-shaped cam surface that includes in operative area and a non-operative area... and a cam follower... wherein... said non-operative area having a gate mark formed during the resin molding process, said stopper preventing said cam follower from interfering with said gate mark" (emphasis added). Applicant respectfully submits that OKADA does not disclose or suggest numerous of the above-noted features recited in claim 1.

In particular, the outstanding Official Action asserts that FIG. 3 discloses a cam follower 8c and a cam surface 9b of a cam member 9. However, even taking the above-noted characterizations of the noted elements of FIG. 3 of OKADA as true, the cam surface 9b is not "ring-shaped" and does not include "an operative area and a non-operative area", each of which is recited in independent claim 1. Additionally, OKADA does not disclose "said non-operative area having a gate mark formed during the resin molding process", as is recited in claim 1. Furthermore, OKADA does not disclose or suggest "said stopper preventing said cam follower from interfering with said gate mark", as is recited in claim 1, at least because OKADA does not disclose or suggest the "gate mark" recited in claim 1. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 6 recites features

similar to the above-noted features recited in claim 1.

Applicant would like to explain several exemplary aspects of the disclosed invention for the Examiner's benefit. In particular, with regard to FIG. 2 of the present application, a "gate mark 74" is formed "because of the injection mouth, during the resin molding process" (see page 7, lines 17-18). The stoppers 76a/76b are provided to separate the non-operative area Y and the operative area X (see FIG. 3) so that the cam follower 31a of the holding frame support 31 is prevented "from interfering with the gate mark 74" (see page 8, lines 7-9).

The exemplary features noted above emphasize the importance of the various features recited in claims 1 and 6, e.g., "ring-shaped cam surface that includes an operative area and a non-operative area... said non-operative area having a gate mark formed during the resin molding process, said stopper preventing said cam follower from interfering with said gate mark".

In particular, OKADA does not address the problem of the "gate mark" that is formed during the resin molding process. Accordingly, OKADA has no reason to ensure that a stopper provided to the cam member prevents a cam follower from interfering with a gate mark in a non-operative area, at least because a gate mark from the resin molding is not disclosed at all, let alone in a non-operative area of the cam face 9b.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the above-noted features of the

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present invention are not disclosed or suggested by the prior art applied by the Examiner; nor has the Examiner even asserted that any particular teaching of the applied reference discloses or suggests numerous of the above-noted recitations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejection of claims 1 and 6.

Applicant further submits that claims 2, 4 and 5 are allowable, at least for depending, directly or indirectly, from an allowable independent claim, as well as for additional reasons related to their own recitations. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of each of the outstanding objections and rejections, as well as an indication of the allowability of each of the claims now pending, in due course.

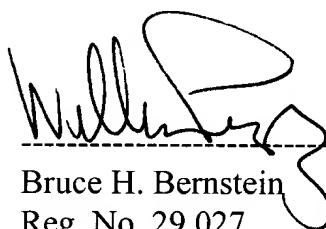
SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Applicant has made a sincere effort to place the present application in condition for allowance and believes that he has now done so. Applicant has discussed the features recited in Applicant's claims and has shown how these features are not taught, disclosed nor rendered obvious by the references applied by the Examiner.

Any amendments to existing claims which have been made in this amendment, and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
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